

October 25, 2012

Board of Selectmen  
195 Main Street  
Maynard, Massachusetts  
01754



Re; Town Administrator Report

Honorable Board of Selectmen,

Please accept this report as an abridged version of Town Hall activities in recent weeks;

**Lori Blanchard;** Is the latest addition to Team Maynard, she has quickly adapted to her role as Town Accountant. I personally brought her to the School Department, Library, Fire Department, Police Department and all Town Hall Offices. The reception was overwhelmingly warm.

Ms. Blanchard's demeanor and style will be only outpaced by her knowledge and competency. We have turned another corner and the view is improved. I have asked Accountant Blanchard if she could attend an upcoming meeting of the Board of Selectmen and we will work it into her schedule.

**129 Parker Street;** Capital Development Group is finalizing the plans for their proposed retail center at 129 Parker Street and they are hopeful the plans will be able submit in preliminary form to the Planning Board in the next few weeks. They have started the demolition and there should be significant deconstruction activity for the next few weeks. This may cause some vibration in adjoining neighborhoods and some loud noise during working hours.

The asbestos abatement has been nearly completed and the contractor will take all dust control measures reasonably available and required by code. If any residents have any concerns in regards to the demolition I would ask that they call the Board of Selectmen Office and I will try to find the answers.

One point of interest is that the developer is taking great pains to keep all usable aggregate on site for future use as another step towards sustainable construction. This is as laudable as their plans to capture runoff and utilize it for irrigation on site.

The developers have also setup meetings with residents in various neighborhoods to discuss the wants and needs of those citizens.

**MEGA Insurance;** As many of you may know I attended a meeting with numerous towns from throughout the state, West Bridgewater, Weston, Barnstable, West Boylston, Middleborough and the host community Franklin to name some, to hear from MEGA Insurance. Each community was trying to understand why were getting hit with some exorbitant charges five and six years after we canceled our relationship with this group.

They explained that their reserves were deemed by the Massachusetts Division of Insurance (DOI) to be insufficient and further the DOI ordered them to collect run out costs supposedly associated with workmen compensation costs from 2004 through 2006.

We all have long felt that for the DOI, somewhat arbitrarily, to demand creation of an “excess fund” (whatever that is) and have long past years be the basis of a demand to former customers is unacceptable.

The consortium in attendance has developed a strategy to elicit the support of the legislature in correcting this unjust measure. MEGA stated that if the communities do not comply then they have been ordered by DOI to take each town to court. The Town of Maynard unlike other communities has a relatively small amount of debt and has made its payments on time to this point. I have budgeted for our next payment in June, but will continue to support the other impacted communities and cancel payments if advisable. The Town of Maynard in total owed less than \$30,000, some communities owed over \$150,000. The towns who owe more it may be smart to stand and fight, given our amount I would advise a more pragmatic approach and hope this is solved by next June and then request the \$9,000 we paid last June to be returned. It would be unwise to have to spend money on defending this case and add to the costs if the DOI does not relent in its position.

I will continue to monitor and participate in this crusade.

**Street Lights;** There will be a very small number of critically needed lights replaced early next week. We will see the first ten LED Cobraheads installed and hope that we will soon embark on the larger Presidential Street initiative forthwith. There are those that struggle to understand why we need to control costs related to this project, but far more that appreciate the effort.

**Blue Cross Retiree Rates;** On Friday last I attended the MIAA Board of Directors Meeting and both at that meeting and the recent message from MIAA in regards to retirees rates, has suggested we may have another good year. I have asked to meet with all the unions as part of the IAC requirement as we may be able to adjust some plans to lower costs.

I do not want to get ahead of ourselves, but our experience is trending well and some of the cost cutting measures brought to the health market are starting to pay dividends. Save Money! Stay healthy! is the hewn cry.

**KVS;** We recently had a very frank conversation with the management team of KVS. This discussion centered on where we are and where we need to be. I explained at length we were not “where we need to be” by any stretch of the imagination.

Treasurer Kane, Accountant Blanchard and I made it clear we were willing to hold past performance in abeyance for the time being, but we must improve our operability through training that is geared towards our needs, not other communities.

The team from KVS which included their Vice President Ida Taylor got the message that a new day has dawned, hopefully. I believe that they believe, finally that the BOS and I working together are not fearful of making necessary changes. One comment was “...we noticed that as soon as we walked in the building”, referring to the improvements.

I made it clear that the last thing I wanted to do is ask the BOS for another \$150,000 for another software conversion in the next budget cycle, but if we all can't get our act together then that has to be considered.

We will continue to work in a professional manner with KVS and do everything we can to make the system work, I can guarantee you that commitment.

Please let me know if there are any other projects or initiatives which you would like updates on and I would be happy to try and provide them to you.

Respectfully,

Michael J. Sullivan  
Town Administrator, Maynard